

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of May 30, 2008 is gratefully acknowledged.

The reference to "parent Application" in enumerated 1. Of the Office Action is not understood, as the Application No. Identified is the application number of the present application. Clarification is requested.

Claims 11 - 20 have been presented for examination. These have been rejected as follows: claims 11 and 14 - 20 under 35 USC 102(b) by Hadden et al; and claims 12 and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) over Hadden et al in view of Weston.

These rejections are respectfully traversed. The traverse notwithstanding, claims 11 and 20 have been amended to further define what is contained in the data memory. Support for this amendment can be found on pages 5 and 6 of the specification. The further limitation directed at defining what is contained in the data memory is not found in the references of record, so that 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103 do not apply.

Considering the applied references: Hadden et al discloses a system with gas detector units, which are connected to a control console (202) by means of, for example, a radio connection, (col 5, lines 13-16), which, according to the Examiner would be a "contactless interface" as defined in claim 11. The control console includes a digital processor (202) and one or more A/D converters and A/C transmitter stations (204). According to the present invention, however, a sensor module is described, which contains a primary sensor, a microcontroller and a memory for storing sensor data or process data. This sensor module is connected by means of a contactless interface to a superordinated unit, which could correspond to the control console described in the Hadden et al.

In the context of the description, the sensor module (Fig. 1, ref. n. 1) is provided on one side of the contactless interface, whereas a superordinated unit (in Fig. 1 a transmitter module, cf. also of the publication, where it is said that "the superordinated unit is especially a suitable transmitter module") is located on the opposite site of the contactless interface. In the system described in Hadden, however, the digital processor and any digital memory available is part of the control console and, therefore, it is located on the opposite side of the "contactless interface" with respect to the sensor module.

In view of this major difference between the system described in the present application and in Hadden et al, claim 11 has been amended to make it clear that the digital data memory is a part of the sensor module, whereas the superordinated unit, and in particular the transmitter module, is not. A similar amendment has been made to claim 20.

Amended claims 11 and 20 are not, it is respectfully submitted, obvious in view of Hadden et al and Weston. When in the sensor system of Hadden et al a sensor has to be replaced, the sensor-related data, such as calibration date, sensitivity, temperature offset, logistic information, operating temperature range or the like (which, of course, is different for each individual sensor) will have to be stored in a memory of the control console. A sensor module according to the present invention, however, would "bring along" its individual data, so that sensor modules can easily be replaced or exchanged without having to modify the memory of the control console. This makes sensor exchange easier and reduces the possibility of errors. Neither Hadden et al nor Weston suggests providing the sensor module with a data memory that contains sensor-related data.

Application No.: 10/549,751

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 11 - 20 now found to be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

Date: Sept. 30, 2008



Felix J. D'Ambrosio
Attorney for Applicant
Registration Number 25,721

Customer Number *23364*
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone: (703) 683-0500
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

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